

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~establishing~~ selecting a network service ~~services~~ within a network having a plurality of network services ~~service components~~, comprising:

providing a plurality of interface modules each capable of establishing to ~~establish~~ communications with one or more of the plurality of network services ~~service components~~;

providing one logical access point to the plurality of interface modules to facilitate a service invocation request from an application, the service request including one or more service related parameters of one of the plurality of service components;

~~receiving service component related parameters; and~~

comparing the one or more service related parameters to service parameters associated with the plurality of network services, and in response, automatically selecting the network service whose service parameters provide the greatest compatibility with the one or more service related parameters selecting one of the plurality of service components in response to the invocation, wherein the service component related parameters provides dynamic selection optimization of the one of the plurality of service components.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of interface modules comprises providing a plurality of software objects accessible by messages received from the one logical access point.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~wherein receiving service component related parameters further comprising comprises~~ receiving the one or more service component related parameters via the one logical access point.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein receiving service component related parameters further comprising~~ comprises receiving the one or more service component related parameters via an external connection.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 305, wherein selecting ~~one of the plurality of network~~ service components further comprises ~~using the service component related parameters to initiate~~ initiating a business agreement with the ~~one of the plurality of service components~~ network service if the network service is not a member of the business agreement portion of the one or more service related parameters.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of interface modules comprises providing a plurality of network address translation proxies accessible by messages received from the one logical access point.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, ~~wherein receiving service component related parameters further comprising~~ comprises receiving the one or more service component related parameters via the one logical access point.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, ~~wherein receiving service component related parameters further comprising~~ comprises receiving the one or more service component related parameters via an external connection.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 710, wherein selecting ~~one of the plurality of network~~ service components further comprises ~~using the service component related parameters to initiate~~ initiating a business agreement with the ~~one of the plurality of service components~~ network service if the network service is not a member of the business agreement portion of the one or more service related parameters.

12. (currently amended) A system for facilitating selection of a network services service in response to a service request and associated service request parameters, comprising:
a plurality of service components distributed within at least one network; and
an interface module having a plurality of interface objects each capable of to establish establishing communications with one or more of the plurality of service components, the interface module including:

a lookup object in communication with the plurality of interface objects to establish connection parameters required between the one or more of the plurality of service components and one of the plurality of interface objects;

a data object in communication with the lookup object to provide parameters identifying attributes associated with the plurality of service components;
and

a single logical access point to allow external access to the plurality of interface objects, wherein the network service having attributes that are most compatible with the associated service request parameters is automatically selected by the lookup object.

13. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of interface objects includes software objects accessible by messages received from the single logical access point.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 12~~13~~, wherein the lookup object comprises a matchmaking function to promote business agreements with the ~~one of the plurality of service components~~ network service in response to the associated service request parameters.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 12~~13~~, wherein the lookup object comprises a decision function to receive the associated service request parameters and to provide the required connection parameters in response to the associated service request parameters.

16. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of interface objects includes a plurality of network address translation proxies accessible by messages received from the single logical access point.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the lookup object comprises a matchmaking function to promote business agreements with the ~~one of the plurality of service components~~ network service in response to the associated service request parameters.

18. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the lookup object comprises a decision function to receive the associated service request parameters and to provide the required connection parameters in response to the associated service request parameters.

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for ~~establishing~~ selecting a network service services within from a network having a plurality of network services ~~service components~~ and associated service attributes, the computer-executable instructions performing steps comprising:

providing a plurality of interface modules each capable of to establish establishing communications with one or more of the plurality of network services ~~service components~~, wherein one logical access point to the plurality of interface modules allows external invocation of ~~one of the plurality of~~ network service components;

optionally receiving network service component related parameters with the invocation; and

automatically selecting one of the network plurality of service components in response to the invocation, wherein the whose associated service attributes most closely match the service component related parameters provides dynamic selection optimization of the one of the plurality of service components.

20. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the computer-executable instruction step of providing a plurality of interface modules comprises

providing a plurality of software objects accessible by messages received from the one logical access point.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~23~~19, wherein the computer-executable instruction step of automatically selecting ~~one of the plurality of~~ network service ~~components~~ further comprises using the service ~~component~~ related parameters to initiate a business agreement with the ~~one of the plurality of~~ network service ~~components~~.

25. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the computer-executable instruction step of providing a plurality of interface modules comprises providing a plurality of network address translation proxies accessible by messages received from the one logical access point.

26. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the computer-executable instruction step of receiving service ~~component~~ related parameters comprises receiving the service ~~component~~ related parameters via the one logical access point.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~28~~26, wherein the computer-executable instruction step of selecting ~~one of the plurality of~~ network service ~~components~~ further comprises using the service ~~component~~ related parameters to initiate a business agreement with the ~~one of the plurality of~~ network service ~~components~~.

30. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the network service further comprises selecting the network service that is a member of a business agreement portion of the one or more service related parameters.

31. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the network service further comprises using a cost function of the one or more service related parameters to select the most cost effective network service from the plurality of network services.

32. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the network service further comprises using a cost function of the one or more service related parameters to select a most cost effective network service from the plurality of network services.

33. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically establishing a connection between the application and the selected network service.

34. (new) The system of claim 12, wherein the lookup object automatically connects the selected network service to the external access via the interface objects.

35. (new) A method for selecting a service component from a network having a plurality of service components, comprising:

providing a plurality of interface modules capable of establishing communications with the plurality of service components;

providing one logical access point to the plurality of interface modules to facilitate a service request from an application, the service request including service parameters having a business agreement portion that identifies service components having a current business agreement with the application; and

automatically selecting the service component that is included in the business agreement portion of the service request, wherein the service component is automatically connected to the application in response to automatically selecting the service component.

36. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the service parameters further include a cost function to facilitate selection of the service component whose cost is minimized when more than one compatible service component exists in the business agreement portion.

37. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the service parameters further include an application identification to facilitate selection of the service component whose service level is commensurate with the application identification.

38. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the service parameters further include a service provider identification to facilitate selection of the service component whose service level is commensurate with the service provider identification.

39. (new) An interface module for facilitating selection of a network service in response to a service request and associated service request parameters, the interface module comprising:

- a plurality of interface objects each capable of establishing communications with one or more of a plurality of service components distributed within a network;

- a lookup object in communication with the plurality of interface objects to establish connection parameters required between the one or more of the plurality of service components and one of the plurality of interface objects;

- a data object in communication with the lookup object to provide parameters identifying attributes associated with the plurality of service components; and

- a single logical access point to allow external access to the plurality of interface objects, wherein the network service having attributes that are most compatible with the associated service request parameters is automatically selected by the lookup object.

40. (new) The module of claim 39, wherein the plurality of interface objects includes software objects accessible by messages received from the single logical access point.

41. (new) The module of claim 40, wherein the lookup object comprises a matchmaking function to promote business agreements with the network service in response to the associated service request parameters.

42. (new) The module of claim 41, wherein the lookup object further comprises a decision function to receive the associated service request parameters and to provide the required connection parameters in response to the associated service request parameters.

43. (new) The module of claim 39, wherein the plurality of interface objects includes a plurality of network address translation proxies accessible by messages received from the single logical access point.

44. (new) The module of claim 43, wherein the lookup object comprises a matchmaking function to promote business agreements with the network service in response to the associated service request parameters.

45. (new) The module of claim 44, wherein the lookup object further comprises a decision function to receive the associated service request parameters and to provide the required connection parameters in response to the associated service request parameters.

46. (new) The module of claim 39, wherein the lookup object automatically connects the selected network service to the external access via the interface objects.